

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

that surrounded them, maintained their single-hearted faith and religious fervour unimpaired, and found in the scholasticism of the Angelical Doctor a sufficient answer for all the problems of the time. Fra Tommaso was Catherine's first confessor, and seems to have written some account of her life, as far as it came under his observation, which was incorporated into Fra Raimondo's great *Legenda*. Finding her resolute, he bade her follow her inspiration, and counselled her to cut off her beautiful hair, as a sign to her family that her intention was fixed. The inevitable domestic persecution followed. Catherine's room was taken from her, and she was compelled to do all the menial drudgery of the house, the servant being sent away, in order that she might have neither time nor place for prayer and devotion. Abuse and reproaches were heaped upon her, and every unkindness shown her, in order to break down this seeming obstinacy. But all in vain. Thrown back upon herself, the girl invented the refuge that she was ever to urge upon her disciples that they, too, should find, and which could never be taken from them : the cell of self-knowledge. " She made herself in her mind, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, a secret cell, out of which she resolved never to go by reason of any external occupation. So it befell that she who, when formerly she had her exterior cell, sometimes stayed within and sometimes issued forth, now that she had made this inner cell that could not be taken from her, never left it." All unkindness, all reproaches, she bore sweetly and cheerfully. "She told me that she firmly pictured to herself that her father represented Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; her mother the most glorious Mother of God ; and that her brothers and the rest of the household figured the holy Apostles and Disciples. And, because of this imagination, she served them all with such great gladness and diligence, that every one marvelled." ¹ Nor did her visions desert her. In a dream she thought she saw St. Dominic holding in one hand a white lily, which, like the bush seen by Moses, burned and was not consumed, and with the other offering her the black and white habit of the Dominican tertiaries, the Sisters of ¹ *Legenda*, I. iv. 5, 6 (§ § 49, 50). 10